

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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¹graffiti *n* [It. pl. of *graffito*] (1945) : usu. unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface

usage Graffiti, which also serves as the plural of *graffito*, is commonly used as a singular mass noun (*graffiti* . . . was depressing people who rode the subways —*New Yorker*) (*graffiti* comes in various styles —S. K. Oberbeck). This use is well established although not yet as well established as the mass-noun use of *data*. Use of *graffiti* as a singular count noun is still quite rare and not standard.

graffito *'græf-ə-tō* n, pl. -tō [It. incised inscription, fr. *inscription* or drawing made on some public surface (as a rock or wall); also : a message or slogan written as or as if a graffiti — *graf-fī-tist* n, v. -fī-tist] n

graffito *'græf-ə-tō* n [ME *graffe*, *grafe*, fr. AF *greffe*, *graife* stylus, graph, fr. ML *graphium*, fr. L *stylus*, fr. Gk *graphētē*, fr. *graphētē* to write — more at *CARVE*] (14c) 1 a : a grafted plant b : SCION 1 c : the point of insertion of a scion upon a stock 2 a : the act of grafting b : something grafted; *specif*: living tissue used in grafting

graft *n* (14c) 1 a : to cause (a scion) to unite with a stock; also : to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b : to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 a : to join or unite as if by grafting b : to attach (a chemical unit) to a main molecular chain 3 : to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vi* 1 : to become grafted 2 : to perform grafting — *graft-er n*

• WORK, LABOR graft *[origin unknown] vt* (1859) : to get (illicit gain) by graft ~ *vi* : to practice graft

graft *n* (1865) : the acquisition of gain (as money) in dishonest or questionable ways; also : illegal or unfair gain

graftage *'graf-tāj* n (ca. 1895) : the principles and practice of grafting that results when T cells from a tissue or organ transplant and esp. a bone marrow transplant react immunologically against the recipient's antigens attacking cells and tissues

graham cracker *'grām-*, *'grā-əm-əl* n [*graham flour*] (1882) : a slightly sweet cracker made of whole wheat flour

graham flour *n* [Sylvester Graham †1851 Am. dietary reformer] (1834)

grail *'grāl* n [ME *grael*, *graal*, fr. MF. bowl, grail, fr. ML *gradalis*] 1 : the cup or platter used according to medieval legend by Christ at the Last Supper and thereafter the object of knightly quests 2 : the object of an extended or difficult quest

grain *'grān* n [ME, partly fr. AF *grain* cereal grain, fr. L *granum*; part. of *granum*] 1 a (1) obs : a single small hard seed (2) : a seed or fruit of a cereal grass: CARYOPSIS b : the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean) c : plants producing grain 2 a (1) a small hard particle or crystal (2) : any of the particles produced in a photographic material by its development; also : the size of such grains in the aggregate (3) : an individual crystal in a metal b : a minute portion or particle c : the least amount possible (a ~ of truth) 3 a : kermes or a scarlet dye made from it b : cochineal or a brilliant scarlet dye made from it c : a fast dye d : *archaic* : COLOR, hue 4 a : a granulated surface or appearance b : the outer or hair side of a skin or hide 5 : a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the middle of the ear — see WEIGHT table 6 a : the stratification of the wood fibers in a piece of wood b : a texture due to constituent particles or fibers (the ~ of a rock) c : the direction of threads in cloth ~ : tactile quality 8 a : natural disposition : TEMPER (lying goes against my ~) b : a basic or characteristic quality c : a prevalent tendency or convention (teaching against the ~) — *grained* *'grānd* *adj*

grain *n* (1530) 1 : INGRAIN 2 : to form into grains : GRANULATE 3 : to paint in imitation of the grain of wood or stone 4 : to feed with grain ~ *vi* : to become granular: GRANULATE — *grain-er n*

grain elevator *n* (1852) : a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain

grain of salt *(1647)* : a skeptical attitude

grains of paradise *(15c)* : the pungent seeds of a West African plant (*Grimonia melegueta*) of the ginger family that are used as a spice

grain sorghum *n* (1920) : any of several sorghums cultivated primarily for grain — compare SORGO

grainy *'grā-nē* adj *grain-i-er*; -est (15c) 1 : resembling or having characteristics of grain : not smooth or fine 2 of a photograph appearing to be composed of grain-like particles — *grain-i-ness n*

grain *n* [Sp. *grano*, Pg (now spelled *grão*), grain, fr. L *granum*] (1702) any of several leguminous plants (as a chickpea) grown esp. for their seeds

gram *'grām* n [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphētē* to write] (1810) 1 : a metric unit of mass equal to $\frac{1}{1000}$ kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at maximum density — see METRIC SYSTEM table 2 : the weight of a gram under the acceleration of gravity

gram *n* [comb form [L *gramma*, fr. Gk. *gramma*]] : drawing : writing

gram *n* [Sp. *gráma*, fr. L *gramma*, pl. of *gramen* grass] (1828) : any of several pasture grasses (genus *Bouteloua*) of the western U.S.

atomic weight *n* (1927) : the mass of one mole of an element in grams to the atomic weight — called also *gram-atom*

calorie *n* (1902) : CALORIE 1a

equivalent *n* (ca. 1897) : the quantity of an element, group, or compound that has a mass in grams equal to the equivalent weight

mercy *'grā-mər-sē* interj [ME *grand mercy*, fr. AF *grand merci*] (14c) *archaic* — used to express gratitude or surprise



graft 1c: a scion, b stock

gram-i-ci-din \gra-mē-'sī-dīn\ n [gram-positive + -i- + -cide + -in] (1940) : any of several toxic crystalline polypeptide antibiotics produced by a soil bacterium (*Bacillus brevis*) and used against gram-positive bacteria in local infections

gra-min-eous \gra-'mē-nē-əs\ adj [L *gramineus*, fr. *gramin-*, *gramen* (ca. 1658) : of or relating to a grass

gram-i-niv-o-rous \gra-mē-'niv-ə-rəs\ adj [L *gramin-*, *gramen*] (1739) : feeding on grass or the seeds of grass (~ locusts) (~ birds)

grammatica, fr. Gk *grammatikē*, fr. fem. of *grammatikos* of letters, fr.

grammat-, *gramma* — more at GRAM] (14c) 1 a : the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence b : a study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in inflection and syntax 2 a : the characteristic system of inflections and syntax of a language b : a system of rules that defines the grammatical structure of a language 3 a : a grammar textbook b : speech

4 : the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique (a ~ of the theater); also : a set of such principles or rules — *gram-mar-i-an* \grā-mē-ən\ n

grammar school *n* (14c) 1 a : a secondary school emphasizing Latin school 2 : a school intermediate between primary school and high school 3 : ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

gram-mat-i-cal \gra-'mā-ti-kəl\ adj (1530) 1 : of or relating to grammar 2 : conforming to the rules of grammar (a ~ sentence) — *gram-mat-i-cal-i-ty* \,grā-mā-ti-'kā-litē\ n — *gram-mat-i-cal-ly* \,grā-mā-ti-'kā-lē-ē\ adv — *gram-mat-i-cal-ness* \,grā-mā-ti-'nəs\ n

grammatical meaning *n* (1769) : the part of meaning that varies from one inflectional form to another (as from *play* to *played* to *playing*) — compare LEXICAL MEANING

gramine *'grāmē* service mark — used for the annual presentation of a statuette for notable achievement in the recording industry

gram-negative \grām-'ne-gativ\ adj (1907) : not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gramophone \grā-mō-fōn\ n [fr. *Gramophone*, a trademark] (1887)

: PHONOGRAPH

gramps \grām(p)s\ or gramp \grāmp\ n, pl. gramps [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1900) : GRANDFATHER 1a

gram-pos-i-tive \grām-pō-zə-tiv\ adj (1907) : holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gram-pus \grām-püs\ n [alter. of ME *graspē*, *grapay*, fr. AF *grapseis*, corn] (14c) 1 a (1) obs : a single small hard seed (2) : a seed or fruit of a cereal grass: CARYOPSIS b : the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean) c : plants producing grain 2 a (1) a small hard particle or crystal (2) : any of the particles produced in a photographic material by its development; also : the size of such grains in the aggregate (3) : an individual crystal in a metal b : a minute portion or particle c : the least amount possible (a ~ of truth) 3 a : kermes or a scarlet dye made from it b : cochineal or a brilliant scarlet dye made from it c : a fast dye d : *archaic* : COLOR, hue

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Gram's stain \grāmz\ or Gram stain \grām-\ n [Hans C. J. Gram 1938 Dan. physician] (1903) 1 : a method for the differential staining of bacteria by treatment with a watery solution of iodine and the iodide of potassium after staining with a triphenylmethane dye (as crystal violet) — called also *Gram's method* 2 : the chemicals used in Gram's stain

gram-var-i-able \grām-'ver-ə-bə-bəl\ adj (1956) : staining irregularly or inconsistently by Gram's stain

gran \grān\ n (1863) : GRANDMOTHER 1

grana pl of GRANUM

gran-a-dill-a \grān-ə-'dil-ə, -dēl-ə\ n [Sp. dim. of *granada* pomegranate, fr. LL *granata* — more at GRENADE] (1613) 1 : any of various usu. egg-shaped to football-shaped passion fruits (esp. of *Passiflora quadrangularis* and *P. edulis*) that have juicy aromatic pulp: a passion-flower that produces granadillas

gra-na-ry \grā-nā-rē, 'grā-nā-rē, -rē-ē\ n [L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain] (1570) 1 a : a storehouse for threshed grain b : a region producing grain in abundance

grand \grānd\ adj [AF *grant*, *grand*, large, great, grand, fr. L *grandis*] (1548) 1 a : having more importance than others : FOREMOST b : having higher rank than others bearing the same general designation (the ~ champion) 2 a : INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE (the ~ total of all money paid out) b : DEFINITIVE, INCONTOVERTIBLE (~ example) 3 : CHIEF, PRINCIPAL 4 : large and striking in size, scope, extent, or conception (~ design) 5 a : LAVISH, SUMPTUOUS (~ celebration) b : marked by a regal form and dignity c : fine or imposing in appearance or impression d : LOFTY, SUBLIME (writing in the ~ style) 6 a : pretending to social superiority : SUPERCELSIOUS b : intended to impress (a person of ~ gestures) 7 : very good : WONDERFUL (~ time) — grandly \grānd(d)ē\ adv — grandness \grānd(d)ēs\ n

syn GRAND, MAGNIFICENT, IMPOSING, STATELY, MAJESTIC, GRANDIOSE mean large and impressive. GRAND adds to greatness of size the implications of handsomeness and dignity (a *grand staircase*). MAGNIFICENT implies an impressive largeness proportionate to scale without sacrifice of dignity or good taste (*magnificent paintings*). IMPOSING implies great size and dignity but esp. stresses impressiveness (an *imposing edifice*). STATELY may suggest poised dignity, erectness of bearing, handsomeness of proportions, ceremonious deliberation of movement (the *stately procession*). MAJESTIC combines the implications of IMPOSING and STATELY and usu. adds a suggestion of solemn grandeur (a *majestic waterfall*). GRANDIOSE implies a size or scope exceeding ordinary experience (*grandiose hydroelectric projects*) but is most commonly applied derogatorily to inflated pretension or absurd exaggeration (*grandiose schemes*).

grand *n* (1840) 1 : GRAND PIANO 2 pl grand slang : a thousand dollars

\əbət\ abut \əb\ kitten, F table \əb\ further \əb\ ash \əb\ ace \əb\ mop, mar \əb\ out \əch\ chin \əb\ bet \əb\ easy \əb\ go \əb\ hit \əb\ ice \əb\ job \əb\ sing \əb\ go \əb\ law \əb\ boy \əb\ thin \əb\ the \əb\ loot \əb\ foot \əb\ yet \əzh\ vision, beige \əb\, oc, ie, \əb\ see Guide to Pronunciation

chaku [Up dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain
 nun-che-ture *'nən(t)-sē-ō-chūr*, *'nūn(t)-, -char*, *-tyūr*, *-tūr* *n* [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a *nuncio* 2 : the office or period of office of a *nuncio*
 nun-clo *'nən(t)-sē-ō*, *'nūn(t)-, n*, *pl* *-cl-ōs* [It, fr. L *nuntius* messenger, message] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government
 nun-cle *'nən-kəl* *n* [by alter. (fr. misdivision of *an uncle*)] (ca. 1589)
 chifly dial: UNCLE

nun-cu-pa-tive *'nən-kyū-pā-tiv*, *'nən-*, *'nən-kyū-pə-* *adj* [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. L *nuncupatus*, pp. of *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at NAMB, HEAVE] (1546) : not written: ORAL (< ~ will)

nun-ner'y *'nən-rē*, *'nə-nə-* *n*, *pl* *-ner-les* (14c) : a convent of nuns
 nuoc mam *'nūk-'mām* *n* [Vietnamese *mồc mâm*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine
 Nupe *'nū-pē* *n*, *pl* Nupe or Nupes (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also: the language of the Nupe people
 nup-tial *'nūp-shāl*, *-chāl*, *+shā-wəl*, *+chā-wəl* *adj* [L *nuptialis*, fr. *nuptia* pl. wedding, fr. *nubere* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (< flight)
 nup-tial-ity *'nūp-shē-'a-lə-tē*, *-chē-* *n*, *pl* *-ties* (1899) : the marriage rate

Nur-stani *'nūr-ə-'stā-nē*, *'nyūr-* *n* [Nuristan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristans that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian

nurse *'nōr-sē* *n* [ME *norice*, *norice*, *norse*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nutricia*, fr. L, fem. of *nutritius* nourishing — more at NUTRITIOUS] (13c) 1 a : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : WET NURSE b : a woman who takes care of a young child : DRY NURSE 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; *specif.*: a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE 4 a : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or a bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another

nurses *'nōr-sēz*; *nurs-ing* [ME *nurshen*] to suckle, nourish, contr. of *suckhen*] vt (14c) 1 a : to nourish at the breast: SUCKLE b : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : REAR, EDUCATE 3 a : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (nursed the business through hard times) (nursed a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 a : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (< a grievance) 6 a : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (< a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (< a cup of coffee) ~ yi 1 a : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast: SUCK 2 : to act or serve as a nurse — *nurs-er-n*

nurse-maid *'nōr-sē-mād* (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children

nurses-mid-wife *'nōr-sē-'mid-wīf* (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — *nurse-mid-wife-ry* *'nōr-sē-'mid-wīf-(rē)-rē*, *-wīf-*, *-mid-wīf-* *n*

nurse-prac-ti-on-er *'nōr-sē-'prak-'ti-shə-nər* *n* (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician

nursery *'nōr-sē*, *'nōr-sē*, *n*, *pl* *-er-les* (14c) 1 obs: attentive care : POSTERAGE 2 a : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : DAY NURSERY 3 a : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for

nur-ger-y-man *'nōr-ger-mən* (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale

nursery rhyme *n* (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story

nursery school *n* (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years nurse's aide *n* (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)

nurse shark *n* [alter. of *nusse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family Gingymostomatidae); esp. a shark (*Gingymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters

nursing *n* (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)

nursing home *n* (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly

nurs-ing *'nōr-sē-ni* (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child

nur-tur-ance *'nōr-cha-rən(t)s* *n* (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention

nur-tur-ant *'nōr-tūr-ənt* *adj* [MB *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurement*, fr. LL *nutrere* act of nursing, fr. L *nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish — more at NOURISH] (14c) 1 : TRAINING, UPBRINGING 2 : something that nourishes: FOOD 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism

nur-ture *'nōr-tūr*; nur-tur-ing *'nōr-tūr-ing*, *'nōr-cho-* (15c) 1 : to supply with nourishment 2 : EDUCATE 3 : to further the development of

nut *'nōt* *n* [ME *nute*, note, fr. OE *hnutu*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to L *nux* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 a

: a hard problem or undertaking b : CORE, HEART 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small hump (as of butter) 6 a : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : ENTHUSIAST (a movie ~) 7 *pl* : NONSENSE — often used interjectionally 8 *slang* : a person's head 9 *usu vulgar* : TESTIS 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : HN 1 — nut-like *'nūk* *adj*

nut *'nōt* *adj* : nutted; nutting (1604) : to gather or seek nuts

nu-tate *'nū-tāt*, *'nūl-* *v* *nu-tat-ed*; nu-tat-ing (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation

nu-ta-tion *'nū-tā-shən*, *nyūl-* *n* [L *nutration-*, *nutratio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at NUMEN] (1612) 1 *archaic* : the act of nodding the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : WOBBLE 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — *nu-ta-tion-al* *'nūtā-shənl*, *-shā-nl* *adj*

nut-brown *'nōt-'brōn* *adj* (1959) : of the color of a brown nut

nut-case *'nōt-kās* *n* (1959) : NUT 6a

nut-cracker *'nōt-kākər* *n* (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts

nut-gall *'nōgōl* *n* (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; *esp.* such a gall produced on oaks

nut grass *n* (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also: a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)

nut-hatch *'nōt-hach* *n* [ME *notehache*, fr. *note* nut + *hache*; akin to OE *tohaccian* to hack — more at HACK] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family Sittidae and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap

nut-house *'nōt-haus* *n* (1900) : slang : a mental hospital

nut-let *'nōt-lət* *n* (1856) 1 a : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet

nut-meg *'nōt-mēg*, *'nōmēg* *n* [ME *notemigge*, *notemuge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz musada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. L *nuc*, *nix*) + *musada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at MUSCAT] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragans*) of the family Myristicaceae, the nutmeg family native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare MACE 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg

nut-pick *'nōt-pik* *n* (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts

nu-tra-ceu-ti-cal also *'nōt-ri-ceu-ti-cal* *'nūt-ri-'sū-ti-kəl* *n* [*nutritive* + *'pharmaceutical*] (1990) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value

nu-tria *'nūt-rē-ə*, *'nyūl-* *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp. *otter*, modif. of L *hura*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Hydrocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America

nu-tri-ent *'nūt-rē-ənt*, *'nyūl-* *adj* [LL *nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1650) : furnishing nourishment

nutrient *(nōt-rē-ənt)* (ca. 1828) : a nutritive substance or ingredient

nu-tri-ment *'nūt-rē-mənt*, *'nyūl-* *n* [ME, fr. L *nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life

nu-tri-tion *'nūt-rē-shən*, *nyūl-* *n* [ME *nutricion*, fr. LL *nutrition-*, *nutri-*, fr. L *nutrire*] (15c) 1 : the act or process of nourishing or being nourished; *specif.*: the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances 2 : NOURISHMENT 1 — *nu-tri-tion-al* *'nūt-rē-shənl*, *'tri-shā-nl* *adj* — *nu-tri-tion-al-ly* *adv*

nu-tri-tion-ist *'nūt-rē-shə-nist* *n* (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition

nu-tri-tious *'nūt-rē-shəs*, *nyūl-* *adj* [L *nutritius*, fr. *nutric-*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1665) : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tious-ly* *adv* — *nu-tri-tious-ness* *n*

nu-tri-tive *'nūt-rē-tiv*, *'nyūl-* *adj* (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tively* *adv*

nutritive ratio *n* (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration

nutts *'nōt-ts* *adj* (1785) 1 : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN (< for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : INSANE, CRAZY (< said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)

nuts and bolts *n* (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — *nuts-and-bolts* *adj*

nut-sedge *'nōt-sēd* *n* (ca. 1909) : NUT GRASS

nut-shell *'nōt-shēl* *n* (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope 3 : *in a nutshell* : in a very brief statement

nut-ter *'nōt-tər* *n* (1958) *slang Brit* : NUT 6a

nutty *'nōt-tē* *adj* *nut-tēr-est* (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts

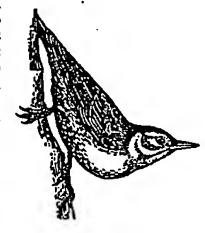
2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : ECCENTRIC, SILLY; also : mentally unbalanced — *nut-tēl-y* *'nōt-lē* *adv* — *nut-tē-ness* *n*

Nuu-Chah-Nulth also Nuu Chah Nulth *'nūl-'chā-nūl* *n*, *pl* Nuu-Chah-Nulth also Nuu Chah Nulth (*Nootka nūčāh-nūl*, lit. all along the mountains) (1979) : NOOTKA

nux vom-i-ca *'nōks-'vōm-ikə* *n*, *pl* nux vomica [NL, lit. emetic nut]

(14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Styrax nux-vomica* of the family Loganiaceae) of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica

\(ə) abut \(\) kitten, F table \(\) further \(\) ash \(\) ace \(\) mop, mar \(\) out \(\) chin \(\) bet \(\) easy \(\) go \(\) hit \(\) ice \(\) job \(\) sing \(\) go \(\) law \(\) boy \(\) thin \(\) the \(\) loot \(\) foot \(\) yet \(\) zhi vision, beige \(\) \(\)ce, us, \(\) see Guide to Pronunciation



nuthatch

ve-da-ila *\və-dāl-yə* n [NL, genus name] (1889) : an Australian ladybug (*Rodolia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also *vedala beetle*

Ve-da-ni *\vē-dā-nē*, *vē-* *\vē-dān-* *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit., end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to *OB end*] (1788) : an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — *Ve-dān-ism* *\vē-dān-izm*, *vē-dān-* *n* — *Ve-dān-ist* *\vē-dān-* *n*, *vē-dān-ic* *\vē-dān-ik*, *vē-dān-* *adj* (1882) 1 : of or relating to the Vedanta philosophy 2 : **VEDIC**

Ved-da or Ved-dah *\vēdā* [Sinhalese *wedda* hunter] (1681) : a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

Ved-dold *\vēd-dōld* *n* (1928) : a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as way to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — *Veddold adj*

ve-de-tte or *Vi-de-tte* *\vē-dēt*, *vē-* *\vē-dēt-* *n* [Fr. fr. It *vedetta*, alter. of *vedetta*, prob. fr. Sp *vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. L *vigilare* to wake, watch, fr. *vigil* awake — more at *VIGIL*] (ca. 1611) : a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

Ve-dic *\vē-dik* *adj* (1848) : of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 1500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

vee *\vē* *n* (ca. 1883) 1 : something shaped like the letter V 2 : the letter v

vee-jay *\vējē* *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981) : an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

veena *\vēē-nā* *n* **VINA**

veep *\vēp* *n* [fr. v. p. (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949) : **VICE PRESIDENT**

veer *\vēr* *vīr* *vīrē* *vīrēn* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c) : to let out (as a rope)

veer *\vēr* *vēr* *vērē* *vērēn* [MLB *verēn*, fr. MR *verē*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL **vīrare*, alter. of L *vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at *VIBRATE*] *v* (15c) 1 : to change direction or course (the economy *~ed* sharply downward), 2 of the wind : to shift in a clockwise direction — compare **BACK** 3 : to wear shirt ~ vi : to direct to a different course; *specif.*: WEAR *7* *syn* see SWERVE — *veer-ing-ly* *\vēr-ing-lē* *adv*

veer *\vēr* *n* (ca. 1611) : a change in course or direction (*a ~ to the right*)

veer-y *\vērē* *n*, *pl* *veeries* [prob. *imit.*] (1838) : an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

veg *\vēg* *n*, pl *vegs* (1918) **chiefly Brit** : **VEGETABLE**

vega *\vē-gā*, *vē-* *\vē-* *gā* *[NL, fr. Ar (al-Nasr) *al-Waqf*, lit., the falling (vulture)]* (ca. 1638) : the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

vegan *\vē-gān* also *\vē-* *gān* also *\vē-* *gān-* *or* *\vē-* *gān-* *jan* [by conf. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944) : a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; also : one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — *vegan adj* — *vegan-ism* *\vē-gān-izm*, *vē-gān-* *vē-gān-* *n*

veg-e-ta-ble *\vējē-tə-bəl*, *vē-* *\vē-* *ta-bəl* *adj* [ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. L, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at *WAKE*] (15c) 1 a : of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants b : consisting of plants : **VEGETATIONAL** 2 : made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (*~soup*) (*~fat*) 3 : resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

vegetable *\vētəbəl* *n* (15c) 1 : **PLANT** 1b 2 : a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; also : such an edible part 3 : a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

vegetable ivory *n* (1842) 1 : the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2 : **IVORY NUT**

vegetable marrow *n* (ca. 1816) **chiefly Brit** : any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

vegetable oil *n* (1765) : an oil of plant origin; *esp* : a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

vegetable oyster *n* (ca. 1818) : **SALISFY**

vegetable pear *n* (1887) : **CHAYOTE**

vegetable wax *n* (1815) : a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

veg-e-ta-bley *\vējē-tə-bē*, *vē-* *\vē-* *ad* or *adv* (1651) : in the manner of or like a vegetable

veg-e-ta-tion *\vējē-tā-shən* *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c) 1 : **VEGETABLE** 2 : **VEGETATIVE** 3 : of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (*~blastomeres*)

vegetal pole *n* (1896) : the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see **BLASTULA** illustration

veg-e-tar-i-an, *\vējē-tārē-ē-nē*, *vē-* *\vē-tārē-* *ē-nē* [*Potegaver* + *arian*] (1839) 1 : one who believes in or practices **VEGETARIANISM** 2 : **HERBIVORE**

vegetarian *adj* (1849) 1 : of or relating to vegetarians 2 : consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (*a ~ diet*)

veg-e-tar-i-an-is-m *\vējē-tārē-ēzəm* *n* (ca. 1851) : the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

veg-e-tate *\vējē-tāt*, *vē-* *\vē-tāt-* *ed* : *tat-ed* : *tat-ing* [ML *vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] *v* (1605) 1 a : to grow in the manner of a plant; also : to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths b : to produce vegetation 2 : to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ vi : to establish vegetation in or on

veg-e-ta-tion *\vējē-tā-shən* *n* (1564) 1 : the act or process of vegetating 2 : inert existence 3 : plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4 : an abnormal growth upon a body part (as fibrin ~ on the molar valve) — **veg-e-ta-tion-al** *\vējē-tāshən-ēl*, *vē-* *\vē-tāshən-* *al* *adj*

veg-e-ta-tive *\vējē-tātiv*, *vē-* *\vē-tātiv* *adj* (14c) 1 a (1) : growing or living the power of growing (2) : of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) b : promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) c : of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2 : relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation 3 : of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom : AUTONOMIC 1 b : characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5 : VEGETABLE 3 — veg-e-ta-tive-ly *adv* — veg-e-ta-tive-ness *n*
ve-ge-te \və-žĕt\ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at VEGETABLE] (1639) archaic : LIVEDLY, HEALTHY
veg-ge-tal also veg-ile \və-jĕl\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955) 1 : VEGETABLE 2 *slang* : VEGETARIAN
veggi-e burger *n* (1972) : a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; also : a sandwich containing such a patty
veg out \vĕt\ *v* vegged out; veg-ging out [short for vegetate] (1980) : to spend time idly or passively
ve-he-mence \vĕ-ə-mĕns\ *n* (15c) : the quality or state of being vehement: INTENSITY
ve-he-men-té \vĕ-ə-mĕnt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement-, vehemens-*, *vehement-*, *vehemens*] (15c) : marked by forceful energy : POWERFUL (*a* ~ wind); as : a : intensely emotional : IMPASSED, FERVID (*~ patriotism*) b (1) : deeply felt (*a* ~ suspicion) (2) : forcibly expressed (*~ denunciations*) c : bitterly antagonistic (*a* ~ debate) — vehe-men-tly *adv*
ve-hi-cle \vĕ-hi-kĕl\ also \vĕ-hi-kol\ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at WAY] (1612) 1 a : an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered b : any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 2 : an agent of transmission : CARRIER 3 : a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); esp : a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 4 : means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s); as: a : MOTOR VEHICLE b : a piece of mechanized equipment
ve-hi-cu-lar \vĕ-hi-kyo-lär\ *adj* (1616) 1 a : of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles b : transported by vehicle c : caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (*~ homicide*) 2 : serving as a vehicle
V-8 \vĕt\ *n* (1930) : an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; also : an automobile having such an engine
well \vĕl\ *n* [ME *wel*, *welle*, fr. L *wela*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c) 1 a : a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; specif : the outer covering of a nun's headdress b : a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress (a bridal ~) c : any of various liturgical cloths; esp : a cloth used to cover the chalice 2 : the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the well* 3 : a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4 : something that resembles a veil (*a* ~ of stars); esp : something that hides or obscures like a veil (*lift the* ~ *of secrecy*) 5 : a covering body part or membrane: as a : VULN 6 b : CAUL
well *v* (14c) : to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *v*: to put on or wear a veil
veiled \văld\ *adj* (14c) 1 a : having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (*a* ~ hat) b : characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2 : veiled as by a veil : DISMISSED (*~ threats*)
well-ing \vă-ling\ *n* (13c) 1 : any of various light sheer fabrics 2 : VELVET
vein \vān\ *n* [ME *weine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c) 1 a : a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice b (1) : LOBE 2 (2) : a bed of useful mineral matter c : LOBE 3 2 : BLOOD VESSEL; esp : any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3 a : any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf b : any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 4 : something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); specif : a wavy variegation (as in marble) 5 a : a distinctive mode of expression: STYLE *stories in a romantic ~* b : a distinctive element or quality: STRAIN *(introduced welcome ~ of humor)* c : a line of thought or action *(renewed discussion along the same ~)* 6 a : a special aptitude *(inherited an artistic ~)* b : a usu. transitory and casually attained mood c : top form *(thou troublest me; I am not in the ~ Shak.)* — vein-al \vān-əl\ *adj*
vein *v* (1502) : to pattern with or as if with veins
veined \vănd\ *adj* (ca. 1529) : patterned with or as if with veins : having venation : STREAKED (*a* ~ leaf) (*~ marble*) (*~ cheese*)
veiner \vă-nĕr\ *n* (1895) : a small V gouge used in wood carving
vein-ing \vă-nĭng\ *n* (1826) : a pattern of veins: VENATION
vein-let \vă-nĕt\ *n* (1831) : a small vein
veiny \vă-nē\ *adj* (1611) : full of veins : noticeably veined (*~ hands*)
vel abbr velocity
ve-la-men \vă-lă-mĕn\ *n*, pl. -la-*mēn*s [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882) : the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere
ve-la-ril \vă-lă-ril\ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876) 1 : formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (*the ~ of V* of *Vell* cool) 2 : of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — ve-la-ril *n*
ve-la-ri-um \vă-lă-rē-əm\ *n*, pl. -la-*rē-ə*s [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834) : an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater
ve-la-ri-la-zi-tion \vă-lă-ră-ză-shn\ *n* (1915) 1 : the quality or state of being velarized 2 : an act or instance of velarizing
ve-la-ri-za-tion \vă-lă-ră-ză-shn\ *n* (1915) : to modify (as the V of *Vell pool*) by a simultaneous velar articulation
Vel-cro \vĕl-kro\ trademark — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops
veid or veldt \vĕlt, \vĕlt\ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OE *feld* field] (1835) : a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees
veil-er \vĕl-ĕr, \vĕl-ĕr\ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-er* bearing, fr. *genere* to bear] (1877) : a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum
veil-let-ty \vĕl-ĕt-tē, \vĕl-ĕt-tē\ *n*, pl. -ties [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at WILL] (1618) 1 : the lowest degree of volition 2 : a slight wish or tendency: INCLINATION

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